

## Been There, Done That, Got the Tunic! John 19:23-24

I love t-shirts! Especially t-shirts that represent places where I have been, experiences I have had, and things that I have been a part of!

T-shirts are a great way to tell the world “I’ve been there, I’ve done that.” But I have never been able to say that “I’ve been there, done that, got the tunic!” But there was a Roman soldier who could, & it wasn’t just anyone’s.

A tunic was an undergarment, reaching from the neck to the knees or ankles. It was seamless, so it was a valuable article of clothing!

According to custom, the clothing of a condemned criminal was to become the property of that person’s executioners.

Can you imagine wearing the clothes of a condemned and executed man? I’m not sure I would want to say, “Check out my new tunic, it belonged to a criminal! I was there. I put him to death! Now it’s mine! Do you like it?”

But clothing was a valued commodity back then, you didn’t just throw clothes away. & this was a reward given to the soldiers for doing their duty!

We can see from the text that there must have been a squad of 4 soldiers for the execution. **Vs. 23-“they took his garments & divided them into four parts (outer garment, belt, sandals, head covering), one for each soldier.”**

But the tunic was too valuable to be cut & separated into 4 equal parts, plus it would be useless at that point, so they cast lots for it – winner takes it all.

Picture this scene: Jesus has just been stripped naked & nailed to the cross by these soldiers – an act of extreme brutality. Jesus’ mother & some other followers are standing there seeing a son/friend/teacher/Lord upon that cross. And at Jesus’ feet the soldiers are rolling dice, gambling for his tunic!

How could they be so distracted, so careless, so indifferent, so blinded to the gravity of this moment, and the significance of this event which literally changed the world forever?

The Son of God was being crucified! The debt of humanity was being paid! The forgiveness of God was being extended! The grace of God being poured out to all! A righteous man suffering on the behalf of an unrighteous world! Salvation becoming an eternal reality! And these men were gambling for clothes!

Are we so different? How often are we unmoved by the cross of Christ? How often are we distracted by other things at the expense of missing the gravity of Christ’s sacrifice for us? Could this be a picture of us too? (picture)

We may not have “been there”, but our sin/debt/flesh was present! We may not have “done that”, meaning driving the nails into Jesus’ hands, but that cross was the penalty we ourselves deserved.

We may not have rolled the dice for Jesus’ tunic, but how many of us “have the t-shirt”, “the wall art”, how many of us “make a proclamation” & yet remain unmoved by the reality of Jesus being crucified on the cross for us?

We may be appalled, and rightly so, by the actions of those Roman soldiers, but how much of ourselves do we see in them?

Barclay - “The tragedy is not only the hostility shown to Jesus, but also the indifference which treats the love of God, in Christ, as if it doesn’t matter.”

- We at BRC invite you to worship with us every Sunday! Why?
- We invite you to join us in the singing of praise to our God! Why?
- We emphasize the proclamation of the gospel in our preaching! Why?
- We try to provide many opportunities to connect with God! Why?

We do all of this so that we don’t become indifferent, unmoved, unchanged by what Jesus did on the Easter tree! We don’t want to be these soldiers!

Jesus has so much more to offer us than His tunic! Why settle for His earthly garment when He freely offers us heavenly robes of righteousness?

**Isaiah 61:10 – I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness...”**

Jesus’ earthly garments never decorated that Easter tree, b/c they were stripped from Him, but there are garments of salvation on that cross, that when we take possession of them by faith, we are clothed in them forever!

That Roman soldier came away with Jesus’ earthly tunic, I want to come away from the cross of Christ with Jesus’ robe of righteousness!

I want to be able to say – “Been there! Done that! Got the heavenly t-shirt – the garment of eternal salvation!” Don’t you?

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